

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 427**

Introduced by Johnson, 37

Read first time January 16, 2007

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to dental hygienists; to amend sections  
2 71-193.15 and 71-193.17, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
3 Nebraska; to change provisions relating to authorized  
4 procedures; and to repeal the original sections.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1                   Section 1. Section 71-193.15, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3                   71-193.15 A licensed dental hygienist shall perform the  
4 traditional dental hygiene functions set forth in section 71-193.17  
5 only when authorized to do so by a licensed dentist who shall be  
6 responsible for the total oral health care of the patient. The  
7 Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure  
8 in the conduct of public health-related services in a public  
9 health setting may authorize a licensed dental hygienist to:  
10 Conduct ~~conduct~~ preliminary charting and screening examinations; 7  
11 provide oral health education for patients including the teaching  
12 of appropriate plaque control techniques; inspect the oral cavity;  
13 perform pulp vitality testing; and apply fluorides, sealants, and  
14 other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease  
15 to children who are eligible to receive services under the Medical  
16 Assistance Act. For purposes of this section, public health setting  
17 means a federal or state public health facility, community clinic,  
18 or other program or agency that primarily serves public health  
19 care program recipients. The licensed dental hygienist shall (1)  
20 provide a copy of a report of treatment to the Department of Health  
21 and Human Services Regulation and Licensure and show proof of  
22 professional liability coverage, (2) advise the patient and legal  
23 guardian that the services are preventive in nature and do not  
24 constitute a comprehensive dental diagnosis and care, and (3) not  
25 be eligible as a provider under the Medical Assistance Act. 7 and

1 ~~perform or provide all of the duties that any dental assistant is~~  
 2 ~~authorized to perform.~~

3           Sec. 2. Section 71-193.17, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
 4 Nebraska, is amended to read:

5           71-193.17 When properly authorized and directed, a  
 6 licensed dental hygienist, under the general supervision of a  
 7 licensed dentist, may perform the following intra and extra oral  
 8 procedures:

9           (1) ~~Scaling of teeth, including subgingival regions~~  
 10 ~~and root planing with hand and ultrasonic instruments, Oral~~  
 11 prophylaxis, periodontal scaling, and root planing which includes  
 12 supragingival and subgingival debridement;

13           (2) Polish all exposed tooth surfaces, including  
 14 ~~with motor-driven and hand instruments in the oral prophylaxis~~  
 15 ~~procedure, including polishing amalgam restorations;~~

16           (3) Conduct preliminary charting and screening  
 17 examinations and indexing of dental and periodontal disease;

18           (4) Brush biopsies;

19           (5) Pulp vitality testing;

20           ~~(4) Periodontal probing and charting;~~

21           ~~(5) (6) Gingival curettage;~~

22           ~~(6) Place and remove periodontal dressings;~~

23           (7) Remove sutures;

24           (8) Provide preventive measures, such as the application  
 25 of fluorides, sealants, and other recognized topical agents for the

1 prevention of oral disease;

2 (9) Provide impressions for study casts;

3 (10) Apply topical ~~desensitizing~~ and subgingival agents;

4 (11) Provide radiographic exposures;

5 (12) Provide oral health education, including conducting

6 workshops and inservice training sessions on dental health; for

7 patients including the teaching of appropriate plaque control

8 techniques; and

9 (13) Perform or provide all of the duties that any dental  
10 assistant is authorized to perform; and -

11 (14) Apply or dispense antimicrobial rinses, fluorides,

12 and other anticariogenic agents and, in the case of a patient of

13 record with a previous prescription for an antimicrobial rinse,

14 fluoride, or other anticariogenic agent, authorize a refill of such

15 prescription.

16 Sec. 3. Original sections 71-193.15 and 71-193.17,

17 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.